

REMARKS

This is responsive to the apparent restriction requirement mailed September 28, 2004.

Applicant elects Group I comprising claims 1-6, 8, and 16-23, with partial traverse.

The restriction requirement requires that applicant elect one of three identified groups.

The restriction requirement discusses Groups I and II. However, no basis is given as to why identified Group III is another invention and should be examined separately from the other groups, e.g., presently-elected Group I.

In view of this, identified Group III should be examined concurrently with elected Group I.

On page 3 of the Official Action, it is stated that applicant must elect a single disclosed species for prosecution. It is further stated that claim 1 is generic.

Applicant respectfully notes that there has been no assertion as to plural species within any of the identified three groups. Accordingly, applicant believes that this statement on page 3 was made in error.

However, in order out of abundance of caution to be fully responsive to the present Official Action, applicant indicates that both claims 1 and 16 are believed to be generic and it is believed that all of the claims of Group I read on a generic species of the invention.

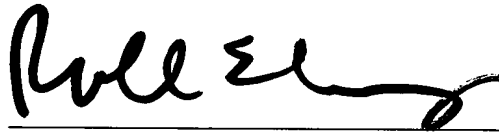
Having addressed each of the points raised by the Official Action to the extent that applicant has identified specific requirements, this paper is believed to be fully responsive.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to Group III is solicited. Examination on the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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